WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Trade Advisory Board

†1487. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Trade Advisory Board for effective solutions in trade and for setting up a separate internal department for promotion of trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no proposal to set up a Trade Advisory Board. Department of Commerce has already constituted the "Board of Trade" to advise the Government on Policy measures for preparation and implementation of both short and long term plans for increasing exports in the light of emerging national and international economic scenario.

Export of value added items

†1488. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export' of the value added items based on the labour cost is in the interest of the country;

(b) if not, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the average percentage of the exports of the value added items based on labour cost made from the country during the last three years against the yearly exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Export of labour intensive value added merchandise goods is preferable in a labour surplus economy like India.

(c) The share of major value added items of merchandise exports to the total exports of India during the last three years are as under:

Items	% share		
	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Gems & Jewellery	16.95	16.67	16.75
Electronic Goods	2.23	2.72	2.54
Handicrafts	1.38	1.25	1.50
Processed Foods	1.11	1.19	1.10
Chemical & Related Products	14.20	14.53	14.01
Petroleum Products	4.64	4.83	4.29
Readymade Garments	10.29	11.42	12.63

Import of raw materials

†1489. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of the raw materials has been more than export of the finished products in terms of value;

(b) if so, the respective values of the imported raw materials and the exports of the finished products during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the prevailing condition of the foreign trade due to the higher value of the imports against the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no co-relation between import of raw materials in general and export of finished products as raw materials are imported to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.